

REMARKS

The above amendment and these remarks are responsive to the Office action of 30 Dec 2003, designated FINAL, by Examiner Kieu D. Vu.

Claims 1-32 are in the case, none being allowed.

35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-9, 12-16, and 22-32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Salas et al., U.S. Patent 6,233,600.

Regarding claims 1, and 31, the Examiner states:

"...and rendering components on said page equivalent to collaboration space tags for importation into said collaboration space for use in defining a skin group including a custom plurality of different display modes (col 5, lines 38-46) for use thereafter in instantiating said user interface." (Office Action, page 2).

For this teaching, the Examiner refers to Salas:

"The browser renders the Web page by interpreting HTML tags, which are embedded control information that indicates to a browser when certain action should be taken. For example, a tag may indicate to the browser: (1) that a graphics file should be retrieved and displayed at a particular location on the screen; (2) that the text following the HTML tag should be centered, bolded, or otherwise formatted; (3) that the background of the Web page should be shaded or have a particular pattern; or (4) that a different HTML file should be loaded and displayed in place of the HTML the file the browser is currently displaying." (Salas, Col. 1, lines 35-45).

The Examiner refers to this same teaching of Salas with respect to claim 14, as follows:

"Regarding claims 14 and 26, Salas teaches the rendering in a skin group said hypertext markup language and style sheet pages responsive to collaboration space tags; and responsive to a user request, importing said skin group into a place for instantiating said user interface." (Office Action, pages 5-6).

In response to applicants' arguments, the Examiner further states:

"Salas teaches page components (col 5, lines 24-27) and also teach that in a page 'tags are embedded control information that indicates to the browser when certain action should be taken. For examples.....displaying' (col 1, lines 35-45). Therefore, it is inherent that Salas teaches that page components in col 5, lines 24-27 are rendered on the page as page (space) tags for importation into the page (space). Furthermore, page components in Salas define layout of the page, therefore Salas teaches 'a skin group' 'for instantiating user interface'." (Office Action, page 6.)

Salas is, in these references, describing how HTML works. Applicants do use HTML. However, the Examiner is asserting that HTML tags are components. That is not the case. Salas does not teach that these components have tags and that these component tags are imported into a page.

Examples of applicants' components are title (or, logo) 342, side bar (or, table of contents) 346, page content 350, action bar 344, and tool bar 348. (Specification, page 67, lines 10-14, and Table 18 at page 75ff.) Applicants tags represent components of collaboration space, and these tags are used to do the layout of that space.

Further, applicants invention provides for skins, which uses HTML to layout components of collaboration space in a user defined way. In a specific embodiment of applicants' invention, six elements or modes define a skin group: five skins and a style sheet, the skins being page view, page edit, list folder view, headline folder view, and slide show folder view. ("Theme" is customer friendly term given to "skin group".) (Specification, page 69, lines 1-5, and Table 19, at page 77.)

Salas does teach components, and does teach HTML, but does not teach skin group, nor the new collaboration component tags invented by applicants.

Applicants are not claiming that they invented HTML, components, editing or viewing pages, but rather that they invented an edit mode and several view modes that each use a user defined skin that specifies how the components are laid out and what styles are used.

Applicants invention combines four basic elements as follows:

1. New collaboration component tags. (Specification, page 73, lines 14-73, page 82, line 14 to page 88, line 17.)
2. End user creation of a skin, which is a group of these component tags, arranged in HTML for each of a plurality of modes of operation. (Specification, page 69, lines 1-5, and Table 19, at page 77.)
3. End user definition of skin group as a collection of skins for all the modes of operation (examples of modes being edit mode and view mode), together with a style which applies to all the skins in the skin group.

(Specification, page 71, line 9 to page 73, line 8, and

page 73, line 14 to page 74, line 15.)

4. End user importation of the skin group into collaboration space. (Specification, page 66, lines 5-17 page 70, lines 9-14 and page 73, lines 17-18.)

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 12, 23, 31, and 32, and thereby their dependent claims, to clarify these aspects of their invention.

Applicants request that claims 1-9, 12-16, and 22-32 be allowed.

35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 10-11, 17-19, and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Salas and Van Der Meer, U.S. Patent 6,415,316.

Claim 20 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Salas and Noguchi, U.S. Patent 5,983,184.

Claims 10 and 11 depend from claim 1, claims 17-19 and

20-21 depend from claim 12. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended as previously discussed to clarify the distinction with respect to Salas. Neither Noguchi nor Van Der Meer, nor their combination with Salas, teach applicants' method or system which includes the above recited four basic elements.

Applicants request that claims 10-11, 17-19 and 20-21 be allowed.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants urge that the above amendments be entered and the case passed to issue with claims 1-32.

The Application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action by the Examiner is urged. Should differences remain, however, which do not place one/more of the remaining claims in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned at the number provided below for the purpose of providing constructive assistance and suggestions in accordance with M.P.E.P.

Sections 707.02(j) and 707.03 in order that allowable claims can be presented, thereby placing the Application in condition for allowance without further proceedings being necessary.

Sincerely,

J. Estrada, et al.

By


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